

REMARKS:

Claims 8, 10-12, 15-17, 21-23, 45-49 and 52-63 are presented for examination, with claims 8, 10, 15 and 21 having been amended hereby and claims 2, 4-7, 9, 18-20, 25, 32, 36-40 and 44 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

To begin with, it is noted that claims 2, 4-7, 9, 18-20, 25, 32, 36-40 and 44, which had stood rejected in the September 10, 2004 Office Action, have been cancelled hereby.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot.

Further, notice is respectfully taken of the indication made by the Examiner on page 5 of the September 10, 2004 Office Action that claims 8, 10-12, 15-17 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard, it is noted that claims 8, 10, 15 and 21 have been so rewritten in independent form. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims 8, 10, 15, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

In addition, it is noted that claims 11, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 23 depend (directly or indirectly) from respective ones of claims 10, 15, and 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims 11, 12, 16, 17, 22 and 23 are now likewise in condition for allowance.

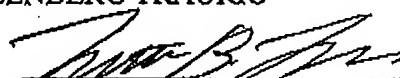
Finally, notice is respectfully taken of the indication made by the Examiner on page 5 of the September 10, 2004 Office Action that claims 45-49 and 52-63 are allowed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each objection and rejection has been overcome and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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